

# Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC)

## A Brief Overview

Upon its completion, the Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC) will be a model of multi-agency coordination and cooperation. Under PSTOC's roof, multiple agencies will work together.

The state-of-the-art Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center will be built on an underutilized site, the West Ox Campus (formerly called "Camp 30") in Fairfax County, Va., along with a number of other buildings, including a Bus Operations facility for the Fairfax Connector and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Commonwealth of Virginia Administration building which will include the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Northern Virginia headquarters and the Virginia State Police (VSP) Division 7 headquarters and VDOT's Road Maintenance Operations facility. The Fairfax County forensics facility will be co-located with the PSTOC.



The goal of the PSTOC is to respond to the county's need for a new high security, state-of-the-art facility that will provide efficient public safety and transportation services, and the co-location and linkage of county, state and regional agencies in one complex to facilitate a cost effective provision of services between levels of county, state and regional government.

### PSTOC Mission and Goals

#### **Mission**

- ♦ Increase effectiveness of public safety response
- ♦ Improve traffic congestion management
- ♦ Enhance public information about transportation and public safety events/conditions

#### **Goals**

- ♦ More effective operations of internal public safety and transportation services
- ♦ More complete and efficient use of resources
- ♦ Less duplication of tasks
- ♦ Leveraging co-located agency assets
- ♦ Organizational integrity and accountability
- ♦ Improved working relationships among local, regional and state jurisdictions

Agencies located at the PSTOC include:

#### **Fairfax County**

- ♦ Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) – Fairfax County's 9-1-1 call center
- ♦ Office of Emergency Management (including the county's Emergency Operations Center)

#### **Commonwealth of Virginia**

- ♦ VDOT's Northern Virginia Smart Traffic Center (STC) and Smart Traffic Signal System (STSS)
- ♦ Virginia State Police's (VSP's) Division 7 call-takers and dispatchers

While shared facilities have become more frequent in recent years, the level of operational integration between the county

and the commonwealth intended in the PSTOC will be unmatched. DPSC, VDOT STC and STSS, and VSP call-takers and dispatchers will be co-located on an operations floor.

The agencies located on the PSTOC operations floor (DPSC, VDOT and VSP) have unique, yet inter-related, tasks:

- ♦ DPSC takes and dispatches all 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency police, fire, and rescue calls in the county.
- ♦ VSP takes and dispatches all #77 (interstate incident-related) calls for the Northern Virginia region.
- ♦ VDOT's STC monitors traffic and incidents by using cameras and other information gathering mechanisms to better manage day-to-day traffic flow and large incidents. The STC also dispatches the regional Safety Service Patrol along all Northern Virginia interstates and roads.
- ♦ VDOT's STSS administers the signal system, develops timing plans and optimizes signal timings during incidents to better facilitate traffic flow.

Once the PSTOC has opened, agencies will enjoy state-of-the-art facilities, integrated IT systems and access to STC's video monitoring wall, which can show images from any of the region's 125 CCTV cameras. The end result for Northern Virginia will be smoother traffic and public safety operations through the leveraging and maximizing use of co-located agencies' assets and more effective communication among the partner agencies.

*"The right people with the right tools at the right place at the right time."*